

THE STATE OF ADOPTION KNOWLEDGE



COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSES OF ADOPTION LITERATURE PUBLISHED IN THE SCHOLARLY JOURNALS FROM 2001-2012

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- As adoption researchers, we are faced with numerous challenges when choosing who we research or write for:
 - Do we choose service to the end-user—and publish in more accessible locations like books and magazines?
 - Do we choose advancement—and publish in scholarly journals?
- If we choose the scholarly journals:
 - Should we publish within or across disciplines?
 - ... and are there certain journals more or less likely to publish adoption-research?



- As we seek out adoption-related literature for our own consumption, we now have the opportunity to tap into research from a host of different disciplines:
 - psychology, sociology, anthropology, medicine, law, social work, education, woman's studies, politics, etc.
 - Many of the researchers from these fields are publishing both within and outside of their respective disciplines.
- So where do we go to find the best studies?
- Can we rely on the databases and search engines to bring us to the best literature?

TODAY'S TALK



- **Search Strategies**
- **Key Word Analyses**
- **Analysis of captured literature**
- **Author Analyses**
- **Journal Analyses**
- **Timeline Trends**

SEARCH STRATEGIES



Key words: *Adoptive • Adoption • Adopted*

- Basic search
 - Too many hits
 - Problem of “false positives” due to nature of the word “adoption”
- Adjacent (Adj) Search
 - Allowed for phrasing
 - 3, 5 or 7 Adj options

SEARCH STRATEGIES



- Basic search example

(adopt* and (famil* or parent* or mother* or matern* or father* or patern* or sibling or brother* or sister* or fratern* or birth* or child* or infant* or baby or babies or offspring or progeny or kid or kids or adolesc* or teen* or youth or adult or foster*)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]

- Adjacent (Adj) search example

((adopt* adj5 famil*) or (adopt* adj5 parent*) or (adopt* adj5 mother*) or (adopt* adj5 matern*) or (adopt* adj5 father*) or (adopt* adj5 patern*) or (adopt* adj5 sibling) or (adopt* adj5 brother*) or (adopt* adj5 sister*) or (adopt* adj5 fratern*) or (adopt* adj5 birth*) or (adopt* adj5 child*) or (adopt* adj5 infant*) or (adopt* adj5 baby) or (adopt* adj5 babies) or (adopt* adj5 offspring) or (adopt* adj5 progeny) or (adopt* adj5 kid) or (adopt* adj5 kids) or (adopt* adj5 adolesc*) or (adopt* adj5 teen*) or (adopt* adj5 youth) or (adopt* adj5 adult) or (adopt* adj5 foster*)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]

SEARCH STRATEGIES



PsychINFO

- Basic search = 8806
- Adj5 filter = 3251
- Manual review = 1884

- But we saw right away that this engine was missing key journals (e.g. *Adoption & Fostering*), SO

EBSCO

- Basic search = 18,000
- Adj5 filter = 4546
- No further filtering
 - (due to inability to draw down in bulk)

- But this engine was missing some too (e.g. *Adoption Quarterly*)

ADJ5 SEARCH WORDS: HOW DID THEY PERFORM?





#	Searches	Results
1	(adopt* adj5 famil*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	2802
2	(adopt* adj5 child*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	5447
3	(adopt* adj5 parent*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	2924
4	(adopt* adj5 mother*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	708
5	(adopt* adj5 matern*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	91
6	(adopt* adj5 father*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	233
7	(adopt* adj5 patern*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	28
8	(adopt* adj5 sibling).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	123
9	(adopt* adj5 brother*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	12
10	(adopt* adj5 sister*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	22
11	(adopt* adj5 fratern*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	9
12	(adopt* adj5 birth*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	592
13	(adopt* adj5 infant*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	348
14	(adopt* adj5 baby).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	42
15	(adopt* adj5 babies).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	53
16	(adopt* adj5 offspring).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	119
17	(adopt* adj5 kid*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	15
18	(adopt* adj5 adolesc*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	586
19	(adopt* adj5 teen*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	55
20	(adopt* adj5 youth).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	118
21	(adopt* adj5 adult).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	373
22	(adopt* adj5 foster*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]	992

COMPOSITION OF CORE LITERATURE (N = 1884)



(PsychINFO only)

- Captured 75% of the literature
 - Remaining 25% was less directly linked to the field
 - Other search terms that held the possibility of pertinence 
- Adoptee
 - Kinship
 - Welfare
 - Attachment
 - Institutionalisation
 - Behavioural Genetics



Caveat to
analysis on
composition
of core
literature:

- Trying to quantify search analysis needs to be balanced against the subjective nature of a literature search.
- Someone else might not have perceived (e.g.) *foster care* to be inclusive.
- Articles from fields like *Behavioural Genetics* make reference to adoption designs but may have no other link
- In hindsight, I should have been more rigorous or prescribed during my manual review of the articles.



First Author
analysis =
32 authors
with 5+
articles

(Author analyses are based on PsychINFO data only, as we could not extract in bulk from EBSCO for similar analysis)

NUMBER	AUTHOR	CNT
1	Tan, T	19
2	Goldberg, A	12
3	Rushton,, A	11
4	Palacios, J	10
5	Juffer, F	9
6	Rutter, M	9
7	Glennen, S	8
8	Groza, V	8
9	Ryan, S	8
10	Hansen, M	7
11	Hoksbergen, R	7
12	Joseph, J	7
13	Lee, R	7
14	Leve, L	7
15	Crea, T	6
16	Foli, K	6

NUMBER	AUTHOR	CNT
17	Grotevant, H	6
18	Gunnar, M	6
19	Howe, D	6
20	Miller, L	6
21	Mohanty, J	6
22	Neil, E	6
23	Roby, J	6
24	Barth, R	5
25	Ben-David, V	5
26	Cameron, P	5
27	Hollingsworth, L	5
28	Passmore, N	5
29	Rosnati, R	5
30	Wilson, S	5
31	van IJzendoorn, M	5
32	van der Vegt, E	5

AUTHOR ANALYSES



First 5
authors =
35 authors
with 10+
articles

NUMBER	AUTHOR	CNT
1	Juffer, F	27
2	Grotevant, H	25
3	Ryan, S	24
4	Rutter, M	23
5	Barth, R	21
6	Leve, L	20
7	Tan, T	20
8	Gunnar, M	19
9	Iacono, W	19
10	McGue, M	19
11	van IJzendoorn, M	18
12	Beckett, C	17
13	Goldberg, A	17
14	Neiderhiser, J	17
15	Castle, J	16
16	McRoy, R	16
17	Colvert, E	14
18	Groza, V	14

NUMBER	AUTHOR	CNT
19	Palacios, J	14
20	Bakermans-Kranenburg, M	13
21	Hjern, A	13
22	Rushton, A	13
23	Wahlberg, K	13
24	Shaw, D	12
25	Tienari, P	12
26	Brooks, D	11
27	Hoksbergen, R	11
28	Kreppner, J	11
29	Lindblad, F	11
30	van der Ende, J	11
31	Lee, R	10
32	Petrill, S	10
33	Sonuga-Barke, E	10
34	Verhulst, F	10
35	Vinnerljung, B	10

AUTHOR ANALYSES



First 15
Authors =
43 authors
with 10+
articles

NUMBER	AUTHOR	CNT
1	Juffer, F	28
2	Rutter, M	28
3	Grotevant, H	27
4	Ryan, S	24
5	Sonuga-Barke, E	24
6	Iacono, W	22
7	Barth, R	21
8	Gunnar, M	21
9	McGue, M	21
10	Leve, L	20
11	Tan, T	20
12	van IJzendoorn, M	20
13	Reiss, D	19
14	Beckett, C	18
15	McRoy, R	18
16	Neiderhiser, J	18
17	Tienari, P	18
18	Wahlberg, K	18
19	Castle, J	17
20	Goldberg, A	17
21	Kreppner, J	17

NUMBER	AUTHOR	CNT
22	Colvert, E	15
23	O'Connor, T	15
24	Shaw, D	15
25	Bakermans-Kranenburg, M	14
26	Groothues, C	14
27	Groza, V	14
28	Palacios, J	14
29	Stevens, S	14
30	Hjern, A	13
31	Rushton, A	13
32	Verhulst, F	12
33	Brooks, D	11
34	Hoksbergen, R	11
35	Lindblad, F	11
36	Scaramella, L	11
37	Vinnerljung, B	11
38	van der Ende, J	11
39	Hawkins, A	10
40	Laksy, K	10
41	Lee, R	10
42	Petrill, S	10
43	Pollak, S	10

AUTHOR ANALYSES



JOURNAL ANALYSES

PsychINFO

From the pool
(n = 1884) came
a list of 520
journals

1. Adoption Quarterly (183)
2. Children & Youth Services Rev (102)
3. Child & Family Social Work (44)
4. Child Welfare (44)
5. Journal of Child Psychol and Psychiatry (27)
6. Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry (26)
7. Families in Society (26)
8. Family Court Review (25)
9. Family Relations (22)
10. Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal (20)



JOURNAL ANALYSES

EBSCO

From the “adj5”
filtering (n = 4546)
we were only able to
identify the top 50
journals

1. Adoption & Fostering (296)
2. Children Welfare (253)
3. Pediatrics (245)
4. Child & Family Social Work (102)
5. Child: Care, Health & Development (91)
6. Social Work (63)
7. Addiction (44)
8. Lancet (32)
9. Family Process (30)
10. Bioethics (28)

(NOTE: This group did not undergo the manual filtering so will likely include some degree of “false positives”.)

JOURNAL ANALYSES: CROSS-OVER BETWEEN SEARCH ENGINES



PsychINFO journals found in EBSCO's top 20

1. ~~Adoption & Fostering (296)~~
2. Children Welfare (~~253~~) (44)
3. Pediatrics (~~245~~) (3)
4. Child & Family Social Work (~~102~~) (44)
5. Child: Care, Health & Development
(~~91~~) (11)
6. Social Work (~~63~~) (8)
7. Addiction (~~44~~) (6)
8. ~~Lancet (32)~~
9. Family Process (~~30~~) (4)
10. Bioethics (~~28~~) (6)

EBSCO journals found in PsychINFO's top 20

1. ~~Adoption Quarterly (183)~~
2. ~~Children & Youth Services Rev (102)~~
3. Child & Family Social Work (~~44~~) (102)
4. Child Welfare (~~44~~) (~~253~~)
5. ~~Journal of Child Psychology and
Psychiatry (27)~~
6. ~~Clinical Child Psychology and
Psychiatry (26)~~
7. ~~Families in Society (26)~~
8. ~~Family Court Review (25)~~
9. ~~Family Relations (22)~~
10. ~~Child & Adolescent Social Work
Journal (20)~~

TOP 50 PSYCHINFO JOURNALS



Adoption Quarterly.	183
Children and Youth Services Review.	102
Child & Family Social Work.	44
Child Welfare: Journal of Policy, Practic	44
Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatr	27
Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry.	26
Families in Society.	26
Family Court Review.	25
Family Relations: An Interdisciplinary Jo	22
Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal.	20
American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.	19
Journal of GLBT Family Studies.	19
Journal of Developmental and Behavioral P	18
The Family Journal.	18
British Journal of Social Work.	17
International Social Work.	17
Journal of Family Psychology.	17
Development and Psychopathology.	16
Journal of Child Psychotherapy.	16
Journal of the American Academy of Child	14
Monographs of the Society for Research in	14
Child Care in Practice.	13
Child and Adolescent Mental Health.	13
Psychoanalytic Inquiry.	13

Attachment & Human Development.	12
Developmental Psychology.	12
International Journal of Behavioral Devel	12
Le Divan Familial.	12
Child Development.	11
Child: Care, Health and Development.	11
Childhood: A Global Journal of Child Rese	11
Journal of Marriage and Family.	11
Neuropsychiatrie de l'Enfance et de l'Ado	11
The American Journal of Psychiatry.	11
Behavior Genetics.	10
Infant Mental Health Journal.	10
Journal of Family Communication.	10
Child Abuse & Neglect.	9
Journal of Family Issues.	9
Seminars in Speech and Language.	9
The Counseling Psychologist.	9
ANZJFT Australian and New Zealand Journal	8
Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology.	8
Journal of Infant, Child & Adolescent Psy	8
Journal of Social and Personal Relationsh	8
Social Work.	8
The International Journal of Psychoanalys	8
Topics in Language Disorders.	8
Infancia y Aprendizaje / Journal for the	7
Journal of Comparative Family Studies.	7

TOP 50 EBSCO (HEALTH) JOURNALS



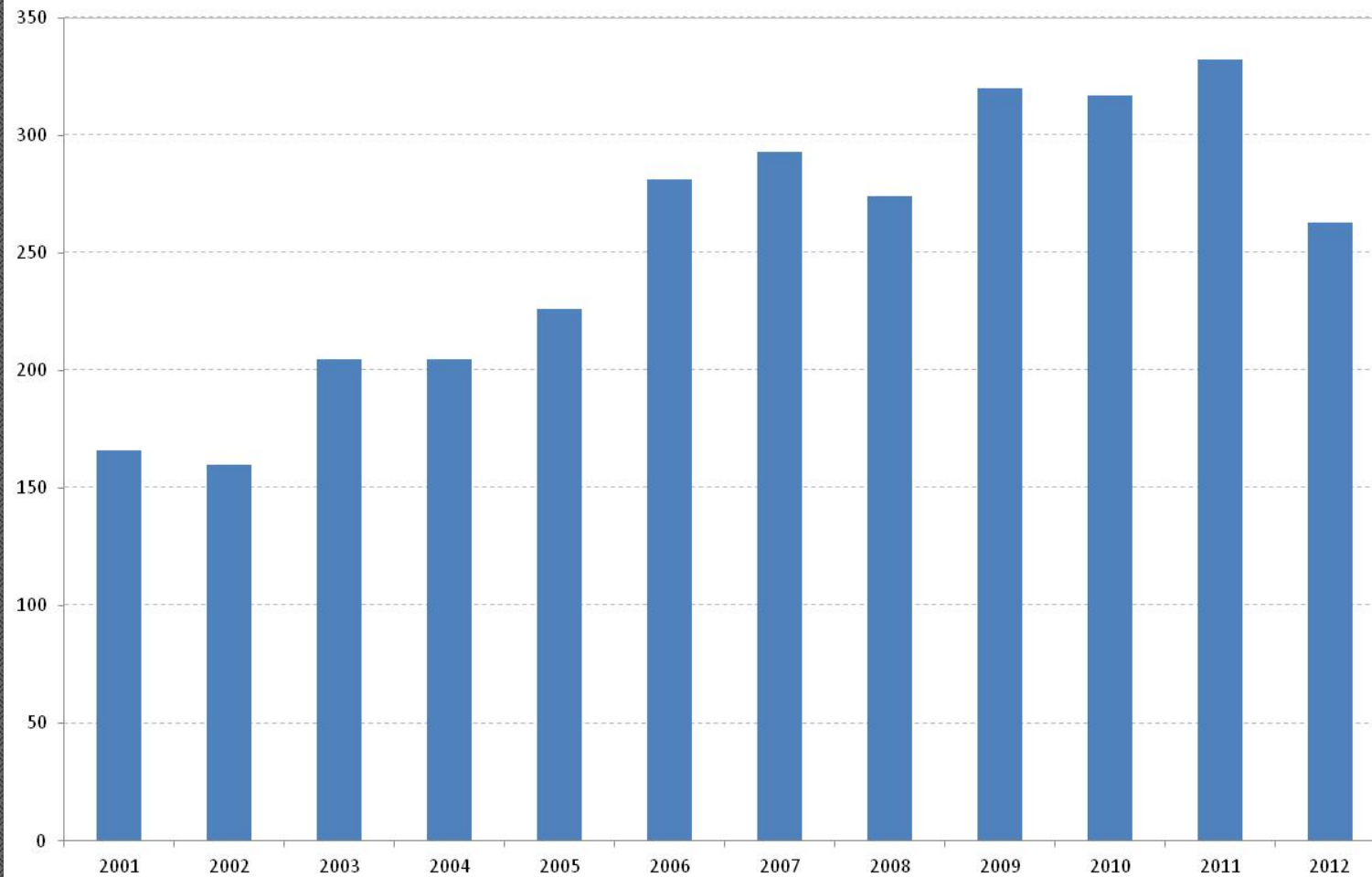
pediatrics (529)
adoption & fostering (407)
child welfare (279)
american journal of public health (200)
journal of advanced nursing (191)
journal of clinical nursing (165)
bulletin of the world health organization (152)
child & family social work (139)
addiction (137)
child: care, health & development (136)
science (132)
journal of school health (131)
lancet (114)
social work (97)
aids care (87)
nature (81)
health affairs (80)
injury prevention (79)
disability & rehabilitation (68)
journal of intellectual disability research (67)
environmental health perspectives (66)
journal of infectious diseases (65)
pediatric dentistry (65)
palliative medicine (61)
medical education (60)

psychology & health (50)
brain injury (48)
journal of evaluation in clinical practice (48)
journal of medical ethics (48)
family process (47)
journal of nutrition education & behavior (46)
bioethics (45)
scandinavian journal of caring sciences (45)
adolescence (41)
american journal of health promotion (40)
journal of women's health (15409996) (39)
journal of autism & developmental disorders (38)
journal of interprofessional care (38)
australian & new zealand journal of psychiatry (37)
health care for women international (35)
health education & behavior (31)
american journal of drug & alcohol abuse (28)
annals of human biology (27)
health promotion journal of australia (26)
british journal of health psychology (25)
hastings center report (24)
journal of behavioral health services & research (23)
health & social work (22)
journal of law, medicine & ethics (21)
topics in early childhood special education (21)

TIMELINE TRENDS



Number of Articles by Year



SUMMARY



- Not all search engines are alike
 - They don't all link to the same journals
 - They may not even hold the most pertinent journals
- Using the “adj” function appears to help trim extraneous “false positive” hits
 - But one might still need to perform manual reviews to ensure this
- We might recommend that journals widen their scope so that they are captured in multiple search engines
 - (e.g.) *Adoption & Fostering* omitted from PsychINFO
 - ... whereas *Adoption Quarterly* was missing from EBSCO

FUTURE FOCUS



- There may be a need for a third engine search (e.g. Sociological journals).
- Adding the word *adoptee* would have captured another 72 entries on the PsychINFO list.
- An early filtering of “journals only” is important to minimise unnecessary hits.
- The optimal “adj” number and words may change across engines.
- There may be some value in analysing the literature to come from any single journal (e.g. AQ) for its trends.